

St Mary's Parish and St. Raymond's Parish
MINUTES OF THE JOINT PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
Held at St. Raymond's on Tuesday, April 23, 2018, 6:00 PM

1. Opening Prayer (Fr. Sakowski)
2. Attendance

Priests Present: Fr. Derek Sakowski (Pastor), Fr. Daniel Thelen (Parochial Vicar)

St. Mary's Members Present: Sydney Alexander, Matt Chilson, Matt Kohlmann, Ralph Melgard, Carmen Nuñez, Julie Nyberg, John Spalding, Tony Sykora

Excused: Mark Willer

St. Raymond's Members Present: Tom Falbo, Jake Geisert, Bob Gruba, John Kuehn, Sam Kuehn, Lisa Olson, Mike Quirk

Excused: Susan Fiser, Marj Messerschmidt

Leadership Team Members Present: Marianne Callaghan (SR), Patrick Gentry (SR), Jacqueline Van Hemert (SM), Sharon Stearns (SM) [in addition to Matt Chilson, Carmen Nuñez, & Tom Falbo]

Excused: Jane Mueller

3. Review of Parish Retreat

The parish retreat, between the two options, had about 180 participants, and has received very positive feedback. Each member shared approximately 1 minute about the most impactful aspect of the retreat, and on potential action items.

There were a few aspects of the retreat that multiple council members found impactful: the personal faith testimonies, the guided Adoration time, the activity of personally leaving things in the net in front of the church, and the glimpse at how everyday evangelization can look.

In terms of calls to action or follow up items, there were several suggestions:

- more prayer opportunities / prayer groups / seeking guidance of Holy Spirit
- more sharing of faith testimonials
- a Spanish-language retreat
- a "bring your friend to Mass day"
- providing more answers to people's faith questions
- getting every ministry to ask itself how it's helping evangelize
- better communication in the narthexes of the churches
- perhaps a greeter ministry at St. Mary's
- provide more evangelizing opportunities and training for kids and teens

4. Group Activity – Visitor Profiles

Jacqueline Van Hemert divided everyone into six groups, giving each group the profile of a first-time visitor to the parish, and sending them to the gathering space to discuss what their experience would be like, and whether they would find what they would need.

The activity revealed that many things that are obvious to longtime parish members are not at all obvious to a first time visitor.

5. Prayer / Wrap-up

The group prayed silently in church for about 5 minutes, asking for guidance in better putting ourselves into the minds and hearts of visitors and newcomers.

Jacqueline Van Hemert and Julie Graaskamp presented some initial ideas on how to make each narthex more clearly organized and intuitive for those who have never been in the space before.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 19th, at St. Mary's Parish. St. Raymond's will meet at 6 PM. A shared meal at about 7 PM. St. Mary's from about 8-9 PM.

7. Closing Prayer (Fr. Sakowski)